

August 6, 2007

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Attn STB Ex Parte No 670
395 E Street, S W
Washington, D C 20423-0001

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Re Ex Parte No 670, Establishment of the Rail
Energy Transportation Advisory Committee

Dear Secretary Williams

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recommends Duane L Richards to serve as a cooperative representative on the proposed Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC), as announced in the Surface Transportation Board's (Board) recent decision of July 17, 2007

The Board is looking to the RETAC to serve as a forum for discussions on issues related to the transportation by rail of energy resources. Mr. Richards is the CEO of Western Fuels Association, Inc., a non-profit fuel supply cooperative formed in 1976 as the Nation's first fuel supply cooperative. Western Fuel represents 21 consumer-owned utilities, and is dedicated to assist its members in obtaining coal and coal transportation at reasonably delivered prices.

Mr. Richards is well qualified to be a member of the RETAC. He has a lengthy background and knowledge of rail transportation issues, with more than 20 years' experience, the last three as CEO of the Western Fuels Association. Mr. Richards would bring to RETAC an experienced perspective because of his long experience and should be of immense value in helping the Board to bring about effective railroad regulatory policies and oversight.

NRECA is the national service organizations representing the 930 non-profit rural electric utilities providing central station electricity to more than 40 million consumer-owners in 47 states.

I recommend Mr. Richards to the Board's favorable consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Glenn English
CEO
NRECA